

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00275 011516Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /090 W
-----115991 011519Z /46

P R 310730Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8156
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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STATE PASS AID

FROM AMBASSADOR NORLAND

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, LT
SUBJECT: LESOTHO ROAD PROJECT

REF: MASERU 0246,

1. DURING MY LENGTHY MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN JANUARY 26 (REFTEL), HE THANKED ME FOR MY BRIEF REPORT ON THE LESOTHO ROAD AT OPENING OF OUR TALK AND SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT THE FEASIBILITY STUDY TEAM IS HERE. HE HAD REPORTS FROM HIS MINISTER OF WORKS THAT THE TEAM HAS TRAVELED ALONG THE ROAD TRACE ALL THE WAY TO QACHA'S NEK. HE WAS PARTICULARLY HAPPY THAT THE GOL MINISTRY OF WORKS WILL NOT BE "LEFT AS SPECTATORS" IN THE EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT BUT CAN HOPE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO COMPLY WITH ALL THE REQUIREMENTS TO HASTEN THE PROJECT TO COMPLETION AND EXPECTS TO
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HEAR FROM US IF PROBLEMS ARISE.

2. COMMENT: THE PRIMIN'S COMMENT REFLECTING HIS GOVERNMENT'S STRONG DESIRE NOT TO BE "LEFT AS SPECTATORS" IS A FURTHER REMINDER OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING THE GOL IN THIS NUMBER ONE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. EVEN IF THE ROAD WERE NOT A MEANS OF AVOIDING TRAVEL INTO

A "HOMELAND" (TRANSKEI), WHICH IS DESPISED AS A CHILD OF APARTHEID, IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO ASSOCIATE THE GOL (AND BASOTHO PEOPLE) INTIMATELY WITH ITS CONSTRUCTION AS A MEANS OF ASSURING THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF ITS TECHNICAL AND ENGINEERING ASPECTS. SINCE THE ROAD IS ESSENTIAL TO CARRYING OUT THE GOL'S POLICY (SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE UNGA AND INTERNATIONAL OPINION) OF OPPOSING HOMELANDS AND APARTHEID, IT IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL THAT THE GOL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY AS A PARTICIPANT IN ORDER, INTER ALIA, TO BE ABLE TO VERIFY THE REASONS FOR ANY UNFORESEEN DELAYS.
STOKES

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), HIGHWAYS
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Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: EAID, LT
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